

Urban District of Matlock.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health, Sydney S. Proctor, M.D., D.P.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Matlock Urban District Council.



Gentlemen,

My Annual Report for the Year 1940 is curtailed in accordance with the Ministry of Health instructions as given in Circular 2314, but I have endeavoured to give a brief summary of vital statistics for 1939 and 1940.

Area.	16,598 acres.
Population, estimated by Registrar General. ...	17,080
Number of Inhabited Houses, Dec. 31st, 1940.	5,029
Rateable Value (January 1st, 1940). ...	£ 111,531.
Product of Penny Rate (ascertained). ...	£ 449 : 0 : 0

STATISTICS.

	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	15.85	14.22
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.	33.33	23.43
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.	12.82	12.99
Infant Mortality Rates :-		
All Infants per 1,000 live births. ...	41.50	28.00
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	40.16	28.34
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.	62.50	0.00

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.WATER SUPPLIES.

There has been no change in the position regarding water supplies.

The Matlock Provisional Order, 1939, provided for extra storage at Sydnop; a new adit at Wolds Spring, together with filtration beds; boroholes and pumping station at Bonsall and new mains with pumping station at Sunnyside Spring for the supply of Riber. Sanction for loan has not been obtained except in regard to the preliminary sinking of a borohole at Bonsall.

Samples taken during the year were of a satisfactory standard of purity except in the case of Willow Well. This water is acid and as previously stated is plumbo solvent and without treatment is unsuitable for drinking purposes.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

The centralised scheme for slaughtering and meat control commenced in the beginning of the year. The central slaughterhouse for this area is at Bakewell. Arrangements were made that all inspection of carcasses was shared by the Inspectors of the three Districts concerned (Matlock and Bakewell Urban and Bakewell Rural). A table showing inspections is appended. Already it is very obvious that such a central scheme enables inspection to be carried out more efficiently. The most noteworthy feature is the large number of animals sent for "casual" slaughter on account of accident or illness. Under the old system of many small slaughterhouses, it was seldom that the Meat Inspectors were notified of "casual" slaughter, which is naturally the type of animal most needing inspection. It is noted that during the year the percentage of diseased meat among "casual" slaughter was two to three times as great as that sent through ordinary channels.

MEAT INSPECTION UNDER CONTROL SCHEME.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

by the Meat Inspectors of Matlock and Bakewell Urban and Bakewell Rural District Councils.

	Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known). ...		Not known.		
Number Inspected. ...	2,023	291	9,426	1,305
All diseases except Tuberculosis :-				
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	20	17	22	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	394	3	133	20
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis. ...	20.46	6.87	1.64	1.91
Tuberculosis only :-				
Whole carcasses condemned. ...	43	1	0	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned. ...	251	0	0	57
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis. ...	14.53	0.34	0	4.98

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING
THE LAST THREE YEARS.

Disease.	1938.	1939.	1940.
Smallpox. ...	0	0	0
Scarlet Fever. ...	43	50	20
Diphtheria. ...	24	12	8
Pneumonia. ...	3	1	3
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid). ...	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia. ...	4	1	0
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	0	0
Erysipelas. ...	5	2	2
Acute Poliomyelitis. ...	1	3	9
Cerebro-spinal Fever. ...	0	0	4
Tuberculosis (all forms). ...	24	13	19
*Whooping Cough. ...			22
*Measles. ...			144

* Notifiable since November, 1939.

NOTE :- Included in the above figures for 1940 the following
were "Non-Civilian" cases :-

- 1 Cerebro-spinal Fever.
- 1 Scarlet Fever.
- 1 Tuberculosis.

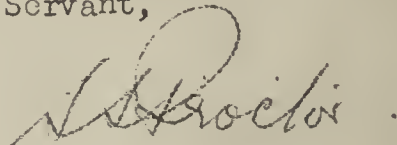
There was a marked decline in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever but an increase in Acute Poliomyelitis.

The position regarding the treatment of Poliomyelitis is most unsatisfactory. These require special orthopaedic supervision from the earliest possible moment. Such supervision and the necessary appliances cannot be provided at the ordinary Isolation Hospital. Patients should be admitted to an Orthopaedic Hospital, but such Institutions will not admit cases during the initial infectious stage, yet it is in the very early stages that hospital treatment can be of the greatest benefit. For lack of other accommodation several cases have been admitted

to the Isolation Hospital, others have been accepted by General Hospitals which have the necessary facilities, but can seldom spare the beds for the length of time a patient should be in hospital. There are no local facilities for hospital out-patient treatment and frequent attendances at a distant centre are usually impossible. As a result the case may lapse unless admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital. It is frequently impossible to persuade parents to consent to re-admission, and in any case this involves a break in the continuity of treatment and supervision.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

Bath Street,

Bakewell.

22nd July, 1941.